



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEMORANDA

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August 18, 2020

COVID-19

Updated DHEC Guidance Documents

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) has updated a number of their school based guidance documents within the last few weeks with the latest public health guidance related to COVID-19. Please take a moment to review this important information.

[School & Childcare Centers \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Recent Disease Activity by County Report](#) (as of 8/17/2020)

[Official School and Child Care Exclusion List of Contagious or Communicable Diseases](#)

- [School and Childcare Exclusion Brochure for Parents](#) (English)
- [School and Childcare Exclusion Brochure for Parents](#) (Spanish)

[Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Schools: Management of Suspect and Confirmed COVID-19 Cases](#)

[COVID-19 in Schools: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accreditation and State Monitoring of Districts and Schools in 2020-21

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, State Accreditation Coordinators, Principals, Adult Education Directors, CTE Directors

CONTACT: Sarah Longshore, sclongshore@ed.sc.gov

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency school facility closings in the spring, and the uncertainty of the year ahead, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is looking for opportunities to lessen burdens on districts. With the authority granted to the State Superintendent pursuant to Act 135, South Carolina districts and schools will not receive new

accreditation ratings for the 2020–21 school year. Instead, the accreditation ratings districts and schools receive for the 2019–2020 school year will carry over to 2020–21.

[Accreditation and State Monitoring of Districts and Schools in 2020–21 - Memo](#) PDF (133 KB)

CALENDARS

Submission of Revised School Calendars

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Chief Financial Officers, Public Information Officers, Report Card/Accountability Coordinators

CONTACT: Dana Jones, dnjones@ed.sc.gov

Many districts have revised school calendars because of the pandemic or inclement weather, and some may revise them again. Please remember to forward a copy of your calendar revisions to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). Please also remember to ensure that your PowerSchool “in-session” days are adjusted as the calendar changes.

[Submit Revised Calendars - Memo](#) PDF (132 KB)

CHILD CARE

Certificate of Temporary Operation - Off-site Learning Centers

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents

CONTACT: Yolandé Anderson, yanderson@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Social Services recently announced that it will assist public and private organizations with creating additional options for working parents who do not have the ability to stay home while their school-age children are taught virtually. The creation of a Certificate of Temporary Operation (CTO) is geared toward organizations that currently operate less than four hours (i.e., afterschool programs) or during the summer and are willing to extend their hours, as well as new operators (e.g., non-profits or others that have not previously operated child care facilities). Organizations that qualify may be issued a CTO in lieu of full licensure if they serve school-aged children who are five years of age and older. CTOs will only be granted to organizations that operate or wish to operate in school districts that are not providing five days of in-classroom instruction as an option available to all children. Additional information regarding CTOs is available at scchildcare.org.

[Certificate of Temporary Operation – Off-site Learning Centers - Memo](#) PDF (209 KB)

EDUCATOR EVALUATIONS

COVID-19 EDUCATOR EVALUATION FLEXIBILITY 2020-21

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Instructional Leaders, HR Directors

CONTACT: Lilla Toal Mandsager, lmandsager@ed.sc.gov

During the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers, school leaders, and districts have needed to shift to new practices that prioritize school safety, student and staff social emotional health, and

different modes of teaching and learning. Recognizing that these adjustments take time and feedback, the Office of Educator Effectiveness and Leadership Development (OEELD) offers these flexibility provisions for educator evaluations in the 2020–21 school year. The goal of this flexibility is to support educator growth and certificate advancement, prioritize meaningful feedback, and provide flexibility for educators to focus on the unique challenges of teaching and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please refer to the memo linked below for more information.

[COVID-19 Educator Evaluation Flexibility 2020–21 - Memo](#) PDF (185 KB)

[Simplified SLO: Priority Standard and Instructional Strategy - Attachment](#) PDF (115 KB)

[Simplified SLO Scoring Rubric - Attachment](#) PDF (78 KB)

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission Statewide Trainings

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Principals, School Counselors, District Military Liaisons
CONTACT: Lisa Jenkins, ljenkins@ed.sc.gov

The Office of Family and Community Engagement will host two virtual trainings on the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) requirements for school enrollment of military-connected students. The trainings will be held on **August 27 and September 3, 2020**, from 10:00–11:30 a.m. As states reopen, we can anticipate interstate military transfers and will make every effort to provide military-connected families with helpful and accurate information.

[Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission \(MIC3\) Statewide Trainings - Memo](#) PDF (164 KB)

SAFETY SIGNAGE MATERIALS

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents, Public Information Officers, Principals
CONTACT: Ryan Brown, rybrown@ed.sc.gov

The SCDE has developed a series of school safety signage to help reinforce students and staff wearing face coverings, washing their hands, avoiding touching their face, and social distancing while within the school building. The materials now include signage illustrating the state's recently announced face covering requirements. The SCDE is affixing the school bus face covering requirement to the 5500+ school bus fleet.

The safety materials, which include accompanying social media graphics, can be found by visiting the link below. The SCDE has worked with an industrial printing company should a school or district need assistance with quality, competitive priced printing of signage. The contact information is included in the link.

[School Safety Signage Materials](#)

SCHOOL NURSE FUNDING PROGRAM

2020-21 Public Elementary School Nurse Funding Program

AUDIENCE: District Superintendents
CONTACT: Victoria Ladd, vladd@ed.sc.gov

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is pleased to announce the availability of funds for the 2020–21 Public Elementary School Nurse Funding Program (SNFP). As required per S.C. Code Ann. § 59-10-210 Student Health and Fitness Act (SHFA), the General Assembly annually appropriates funds to the SCDE to provide licensed nurses for public elementary schools. The Office of Health and Nutrition administers these funds to school districts for the sole purpose of employing licensed nurses in public elementary schools to improve the school health infrastructure.

School districts must submit a complete application to receive funding. Applications for the SNFP must be submitted online **no later than 4:30 p.m., September 30, 2020.**

[2020–21 Public Elementary School Nurse Funding Program \(SNFP\) - Memo](#) PDF (654 KB)

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